

stations across Iraq and in 14 other countries;

Whereas, with 256 political entities composed of 18,900 Iraqi candidates standing for election in 20 different elections (the national election, 18 provincial elections, and Kurdistan Regional government election), voter turnout demonstrated widespread enthusiasm for self-determination;

Whereas Iraqi security forces joined with United States and Coalition forces in providing security for the elections;

Whereas despite these efforts, many Sunni Iraqis in some provinces did not vote because of fear and intimidation;

Whereas the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division and other nongovernmental organizations provided technical support and assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq and the Iraqi Interim Government;

Whereas the people of Iraq will again exercise their popular will through a national referendum in October 2005, when the Transitional National Assembly presents a draft constitution for Iraq;

Whereas national elections based on that constitution are then to be held in December 2005 to choose an Iraqi government in a manner prescribed by the constitution;

Whereas it is in the interest of Iraq, the Middle East, the United States, and the international community that Iraq successfully transitions to a functioning democratic state, as this may serve as a catalyst for peace and stability in the region; and

Whereas the Iraqi government needs assistance from the broader international community to further develop governing capacity, train effective security forces who can defeat the terrorists and insurgents and maintain law and order, improve economic conditions, and maintain essential services, such as the delivery of electricity, gasoline, and water: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the people of Iraq on the successful nationwide elections held in Iraq on January 30, 2005, and recognizes the elections as another step in developing a free and democratic Iraq;

(2) recognizes the desire for freedom and liberty of all individuals who served as candidates, campaign workers, United Nations and Iraqi election officials, and voters in the January 30, 2005, elections in Iraq and congratulates the new members of the Transitional National Assembly and the leaders of the provincial and regional governments;

(3) urges the new leadership of Iraq to move forward with drafting the constitution, upholding the law, and holding a referendum on the new constitution in October 2005;

(4) encourages participation of all groups and communities in the drafting of a new constitution and the formation of a permanent government for Iraq;

(5) recognizes and honors the sacrifices made for freedom and liberty in Iraq by the people of Iraq;

(6) commends the Iraqi security forces, and the U.S. armed forces and Coalition forces, who ensured the elections could be conducted in a relatively safe, secure, and credible manner;

(7) condemns and deplores all acts of violence and intimidation against the people of Iraq by members of the former Iraqi regime, insurgents, and other extremists and terrorists;

(8) supports the establishment of a fully democratic Iraqi government that respects the rule of law, promotes ethnic and religious tolerance, respects the rights of women

and all minorities, provides security and stability for the people of Iraq, and has the capacity to maintain basic services such as the delivery of sufficient electricity, gasoline, and water;

(9) believes that it is in the interest of the people of Iraq, the Middle East, the United States, and the international community that Iraq transitions to a fully democratic state, and that doing so may serve as a catalyst for peace and stability in the region;

(10) calls on the international community, particularly Arab states, countries with predominantly Muslim populations, and all North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states, to provide military and police personnel to train and assist Iraqi security forces and to otherwise assist in the political and economic development of Iraq;

(11) encourages the newly-elected transitional government of Iraq to ensure that all Iraqis, including members of the Sunni religious community, are represented in the Constitution-writing process and in the new Iraqi cabinet to improve the prospects for national unity and consensus; and

(12) looks forward to welcoming Iraq into the world community of democratic nations.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES SERGEANT JAVIER MARIN, JR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fallen Army soldier, SGT Javier Marin, Jr., of the A Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. Sergeant Marin died on the 24th of January, 2005, in Mohammed Sacran, Iraq, when his military vehicle overturned into a nearby canal. He had just turned 29 years old on the 21st of January. Sergeant Marin is survived by his mother, Leslie Marin, and his sister, Evalina Marin, who live in Storm Lake, IA, as well as his father, Javier Marin, Sr., and many more family members and friends.

This simple tribute does not do justice to the immense courage and patriotism exemplified by SGT Javier Marin, Jr. In times of war and conflict such as this, it is often difficult to appreciate the gravity of a single loss in the midst of the increasing numbers of those who have given their lives. However, it is important that we take the time to reflect upon the lives of each of the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the peace and freedom of the United States and the world. Today we honor the life of Sergeant Marin as we contemplate the

ideals of liberty and democracy for which he fought and sacrificed. SGT Javier Marin, Jr., and all the men and women who have lost their lives in service to their country will have our eternal gratitude. My prayers are with Javier's family and friends and my most heart-felt appreciation goes to the late SGT Javier Marin, Jr.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On January 11, 2005, a popular 21-year-old gay man from Tucson was found unconscious and bleeding from the head. Mark Fontes had been struck in the back of the head with what appeared to be a baseball bat. Although an investigation into the attack is still underway, the motivation for this vicious beating appears to be the victim's sexual orientation.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

RUSSIA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, over the past several years, we have witnessed a disturbing erosion in Russia's democracy. Checks and balances, essential to the functioning of any democracy, have been undermined in Russia through the elimination of the independent media, the weakening of the judiciary, and the decline of a political opposition and citizen participation.

In his inauguration speech, President Bush spoke about the "force of human freedom" and stated that it is the policy of the United States "to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

But, the President has been unable to capitalize on his friendship with President Putin to prevent a backsliding in Russia's democracy. While President Putin speaks about his commitment to move down the path of democracy, his actions demonstrate otherwise.

From 2000 until the present day, President Putin has tightened his grip